AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing a fusion protein, comprising:

(a) transforming a population of ~~a gram-negative~~ bacteria with an expression vector encoding a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein comprises an export protein linked to a protein of interest in a 5' to 3' arrangement, wherein said export protein is *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi (*S.* Typhi) cytolysin A (ClyA) protein of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~(SEQ ID NO:2)~~ or *Escherichia ~~E.~~ coli* hemolysin E (HlyE) protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:25~~(SEQ ID NO:28)~~, and wherein said bacteria are *S.* Typhi or *E. coli*;

(b) culturing transformed bacteria of (a) in a culture medium under conditions such that said fusion protein is expressed and exported into the culture medium.

2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said ~~gram-negative~~ bacteria is *S.* Typhi.

3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said ~~gram-negative~~ bacteria is *E. ~~Escherichia~~ coli*.

4.-6. (canceled).

7. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the protein of interest is an antigen.

8.-20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said fusion protein is collected from said culture medium.

22. (currently amended) A method for producing a fusion protein, comprising:

(a) transforming a population of ~~a gram-negative~~ bacteria with an expression vector encoding a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein comprises an export protein linked to a protein of interest in a 5' to 3' arrangement, wherein said export protein is *S.* Typhi ClyA protein of SEQ ID NO:2~~(SEQ ID NO:2)~~, and wherein said bacteria are *S.* Typhi or *E. coli*;

(b) culturing transformed bacteria of (a) in a culture medium under conditions such that said fusion protein is expressed and exported into the culture medium.

23. (previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein said fusion protein is collected from said culture medium.

24. (currently amended) A method for producing a fusion protein, comprising:

(a) transforming a population of ~~a gram-negative~~ bacteria with an expression vector encoding a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein comprises an export protein linked to a protein of interest in a 5' to 3' arrangement, wherein said export protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 having an amino acid substitution at one or more of positions 180, 185, 187, and 193 so as to attenuate hemolytic activity of said export protein, and wherein said population of bacteria are *S.* Typhi or *E. coli*;

(b) culturing transformed bacteria of (a) in a culture medium under conditions such that said fusion protein is expressed and exported into the culture medium.

25. (currently amended) A method for producing a fusion protein, comprising:

(a) transforming a population of ~~a gram-negative~~ bacteria with an expression vector encoding a fusion protein, wherein said fusion protein comprises an export protein linked to a protein of interest in a 5' to 3' arrangement, wherein said export protein is *Salmonella paratyphi* ClyA protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:23~~(SEQ ID NO:24)~~, and wherein said bacteria are *S.* Typhi or *E. coli*.

(b) culturing transformed bacteria of (a) in a culture medium under conditions such that said fusion protein is expressed and exported into the culture medium.

26. (previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the protein of interest is an antigen.

27. (new) The method of Claim 22, wherein said bacteria is *S.* Typhi.

28. (new) The method of Claim 22, wherein said bacteria is *E. coli*.

29. (new) The method of Claim 22, wherein the protein of interest is an antigen.

30. (new) The method of Claim 24, wherein said bacteria is *S.* Typhi.

31. (new) The method of Claim 24, wherein said bacteria is *E. coli*.

32. (new) The method of Claim 24, wherein the protein of interest is an antigen.

33. (new) The method of Claim 24, wherein said fusion protein is collected from said culture medium.

34. (new) The method of Claim 25, wherein said bacteria is *S.* Typhi.

35. (new) The method of Claim 25, wherein said bacteria is *E. coli*.

36. (new) The method of Claim 25, wherein said fusion protein is collected from said culture medium.